

CAUGHT LIKE RATS.

Maniac Led Brigade of Russians to Death in Swamps.

Adolph Stark, a correspondent who has been at the eastern front since the beginning of the war, reports a terrible Russian tragedy in swamps of Luthuania. He says:

"Recently I visited one of the German advanced posts in the Luthunian swamps. The captain in command of the village told me that he and his men had seen comparatively little of the war for months. The swamps, which even in winter do not freeze over completely, protected the garrison against attacks.

"When we first took possession of the village surrounded on all sides by endless swamps we were a bit nervous, the captain said. 'Our forces were small and we feared that the Russians would make short work of us during the winter, but the population, which received us gladly, assured us that the enemy would never be able to cross the tide. The only road leading to the village we could defend easily.

"During the winter an old peasant offered to conduct my troops safely through the swamp for an attack on the nearest Russian position. I did not trust the old fellow, although he professed great hate against the Cossacks who had burned his small farm and killed his wife and two young sons. When I informed the headquarters of my brigade of the offer of the peasant I was told that no offensive operations on our part of the front were desirable for the time being. The old man was greatly disappointed. He could not understand why we did not use the chance to strike a blow against the enemy.

When his offer was rejected the peasant who had evidently become insane from grief decided to get revenge himself.

"A few weeks ago, just before the ice began to break, he rushed into my quarters and shouted: 'Come on; I will show you something that will gladden your heart.'

"His face was covered with blood, streaming from a wound in his temple and he gave the impression of being a maniac. I decided to follow the man and took a lieutenant and two privates along. It was near daybreak when we left our quarters. As we wandered out over the ice we noticed that the weather had completely changed over during the night. The wind was almost warm and the open places in the swamp seemed much larger than they had during the evening before.

"After we had advanced a few hundred yards one of my men broke through the seemingly still strong ice and was almost drowned. The old man chuckled and advised us to walk closely behind him.

"Then he told us what he had done. 'I have lured a whole brigade of the Russians into the swamps and they are now perishing,' he said joyously. 'For many weeks I have waited for this chance. Night after night I was out studying the weather and two days ago, when the wind changed to the south I knew that the hour for my revenge was near. Yesterday, I went to the Russians and offered to lead them to your position. At first they mistreated me, but they became convinced that I was honest, when I demanded a large amount of money for my service. Two regiments with small cannon and machine guns were ready for the attack upon you and at midnight this force started to move over the ice. I led the regiments where I wanted them. When the ice began to break I disappeared into the rushes. They sent a few bullets after me, but only one of them grazed me. Just listen! Do you hear the dying wretches shouting over there?'

"I heard the shouts and what I saw through the rushes in the faint light of the morning almost froze the blood in my veins. Of the seven thousand Russians who had started out to attack us about four thousand had already been swallowed up by the swamp and the remainder was struggling for breath.

"When we returned to the village I locked the lunatic up and later I sent him behind the front. He is now in an insane asylum. The terrible scenes I had to witness that fearful morning will haunt me to the end of my days. I had an almost mad desire to save the helpless Russians who were drowning before my eyes by the thousands, but I could do nothing."

Family Nosebleed.

That some families may have a tendency to nosebleed associated with change from childhood to adult life is suggested by observations of W. C. Lane, of the University of Maine. In the family noted, the bleedings from adolescence to 13 or 20 years of age have been frequent, regular and copious, occurring daily or three times a week without apparent cause, and the peculiarity has been traced to 13 persons of three generations.

Where They Disagree.

A newspaper man was on the witness stand and the attorney was trying to find out something about him. "Where did you work last?" he asked.

"On the Milwaukee Sentinel."

"Why did you leave?"

"The editor and I disagreed on a national political question."

"Where did you work next?"

"On the New Orleans Item."

"Why did you leave there?"

"The editor and I disagreed on a national political question."

He gave this reply in every instance until the judge took a hand.

"What was this national political question," he asked, "upon which you never could agree with your chiefs?"

"Prohibition," was the reply.

Chicago Herald.

Man, Poor Man.

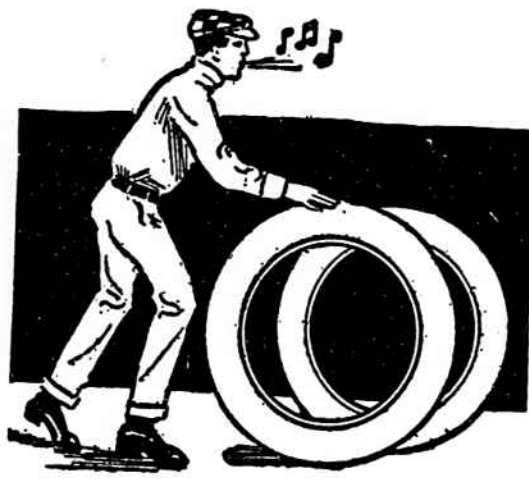
"Do animals possess the sentiment of affection?" asked the teacher.

"Yes, ma'am, almost always."

"Correct," said the teacher. Turning to young Harold: "And now tell me what animal has the greatest natural fondness for man?"

With a slight pause the little fellow answered: "Women."

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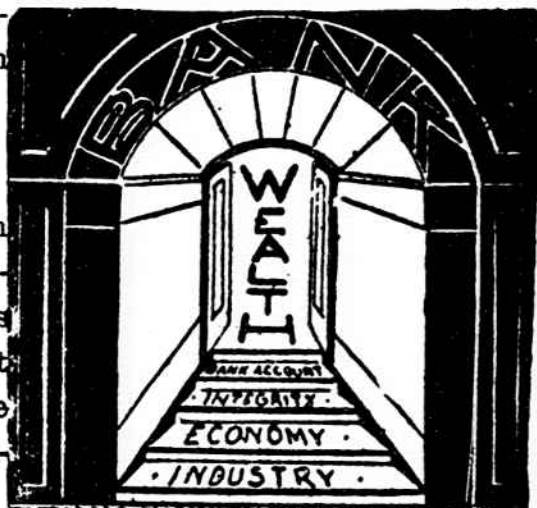
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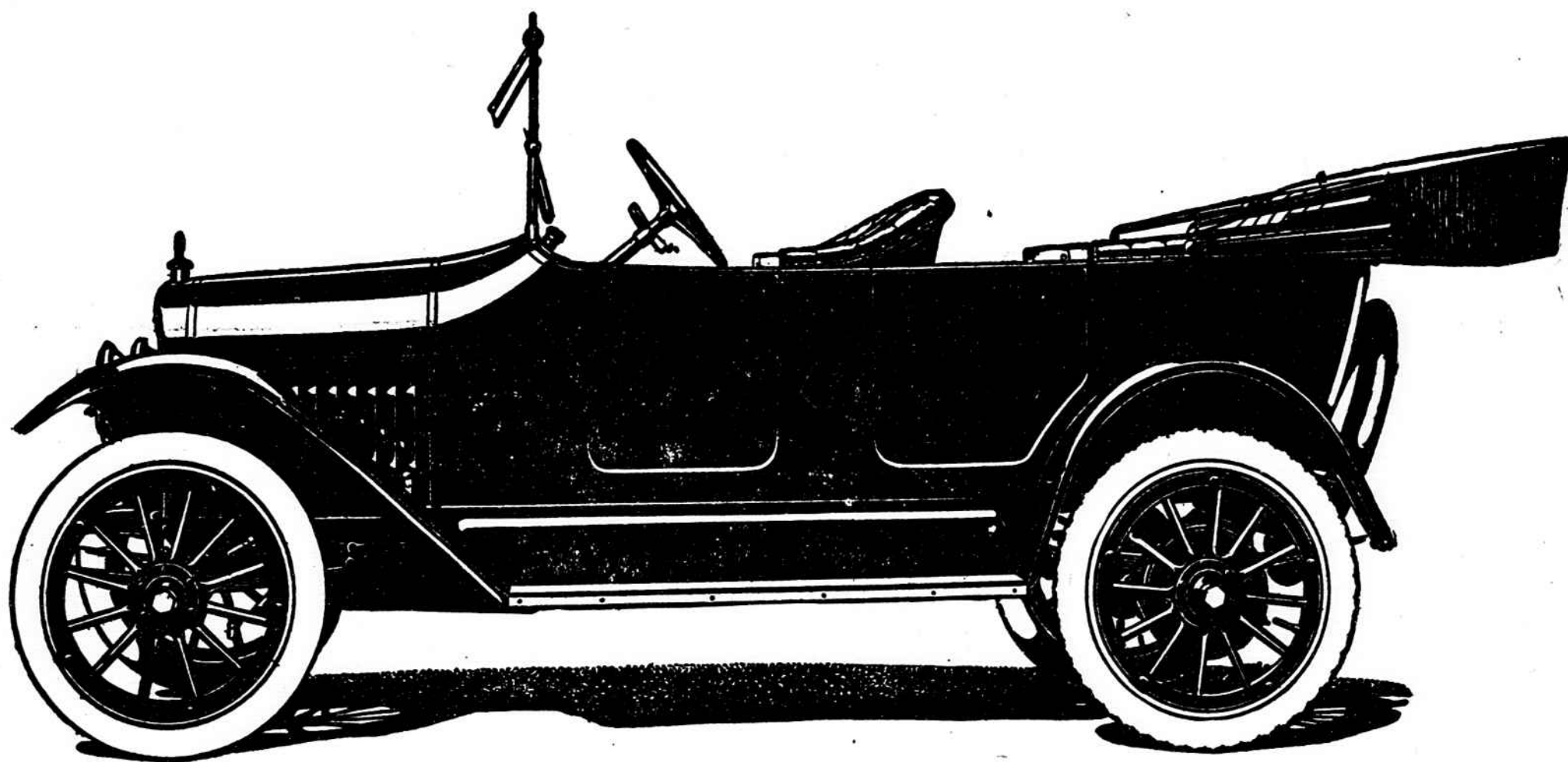
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